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Approved (on October 11, 2010)
Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
October 4, 2010; 11 a.m.
St. Mary's Hall Room 113B

Present: Judith Huacuja, Andrea M Seielstad, Bradley D Duncan, David W Biers, Heidi G Gauder, Joseph E Saliba, Leno M Pedrotti, Corinne Daprano, Paul Benson, Rebecca Wells, Antonio Mari, Katie Trempe

Guests: James Farrelly

Opening meditation: Joseph Saliba opened the meeting with a meditation.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 27, 2010 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

J. Farrelly announced that the Faculty Board is meeting on October 12 in Kennedy Union, West Ballroom from noon to 1:30 p.m., and the preferred issue among board members is faculty governance and voice in university policies and decision-making. A forum will be sponsored in November.

Old business:

Committee Reports.

APC. L. Pedrotti reported that the APC reviewed the Graduate Transfer Credit proposal and approved it unanimously with minor changes. After brief discussion, ECAS members agreed to request that Ed Mykytka make two additional minor changes and that the document should appear on the October 15 Senate agenda for legislative concurrence.

FAC. R. Wells reported that the committee last met on September 24. The focus was on the issue of student evaluation of instruction. Based on their survey of some of the academic literature on the matter, committee members began generating a list of the possible purposes of student evaluation. The discussion will continue at the next meeting on October 15. At the following meeting, scheduled for October 22, Tom Skill and David Wright have been invited to address the issues of (1) the proposed intellectual property policy and (2) technology as it relates to student evaluation of instruction.

Student APC. C. Daprano reported that the committee met on October 1. It reviewed status of issues on last year's agenda. One issue included verifying that FAC had the information it needed to continue with the student evaluation of instruction issue. It reviewed Academic Dishonesty Form and reviewed online evaluation report generated following last year's online student evaluation pilot. No active agenda items are currently pending with this committee.

New Business:

J. Huacuja announced receipt of a report from the University PRT Committee, containing a number of recommendations for improving the process. See May 13 letter from Fred Niles, Chair. Of these recommendations, it was agreed that J. Huacuja should communicate with the chair of the UPRT requesting that the UPRT draft a proposal that addresses the issue of communicating notice of appeal directly to the President rather than the Provost. Additionally, it was agreed that J. Huacuja would convey to the UPRT that

they consider further the issue of what if any recommendation should be made to the requirement that the committee review only those unit changes that are “substantive.” The issue will be whether a language change is necessary, i.e., deleting “substantive,” or whether the committee could through bylaws or other communication issues request units to submit all changes and make the determination of how to categorize them.

B. Duncan raised an additional issue: namely, that many of the procedural forms are not being properly utilized by some departments. He queried what role, if any, ECAS or the Senate could or should take in the enforcement and implementation process. It was agreed that the committee could send further correspondence to the deans reminding them of the process and of the importance of the forms and their deadlines. The committee briefly discussed what role the Senate could place in communication about or oversight of implementation and enforcement of Senate policies, but did not reach resolution on the matter.

The agenda for the October 15 meeting was discussed. Joyce Carter was invited to speak of the changes in the healthcare insurance, but will be unavailable. J. Huacuja will announce the anticipated changes. There will be committee reports. The issue of the graduate transfer credit will be voted upon as the only item of new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Seielstad